## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A hand tool for tightening and loosening locknuts, the hand tool comprising:

a handle comprising a distal end, and a proximal end;

a second handle comprising a distal end of the second handle, and a proximal end of the second handle, whereby the proximal end of the first handle and the proximal end of the second handle are used for holding the hand tool and applying a gripping force;

a pivot point that joins the first handle and the second handle for rotating the first handle and the second handle about the pivot point;

a shape formed on the distal end of the first handle for gripping the locknut; and

a second shape formed on the distal end of the second handle for firmly gripping and rotating the locknut.

2. A hand tool for tightening and loosening locknuts as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a straight configuration is incorporated into design of the first handle and the second handle.

3. A hand tool for tightening and loosening locknuts as set forth in Claim 1, wherein an offset is incorporated into the design of the first handle and the second handle to provide additional clearance for the user's hand in confined spaces or tight quarters.

4. A hand tool for tightening and loosening locknuts as set forth in Claim 3, wherein the first handle includes an insulating material covering the proximal end of the first handle and the second handle includes an insulating material covering the proximal end of the second handle for aiding in insulating the hands of the user from electrical shock, providing an ergonomic gripping surface, and cushioning the grip of the hand tool while in use.

5. A hand tool for tightening and loosening locknuts as set forth in Claim 4, wherein first handle includes a jaw member attached to the distal end of the first handle wherein the first unique shape is formed in the jaw member and the second handle includes a second jaw member attached to the distal end of the second handle wherein the second unique shape is formed in the second jaw member.

6. A hand tool for tightening and loosening locknuts as set forth in Claim 4, further comprising a spring incorporated into the tool between the first handle and second handle to maintain the handles in a normally open position;

7. A hand tool for tightening and loosening locknuts as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising a locking mechanism attached to the hand tool between the first handle and second handle to maintain the handles in a closed or locked position;

8. A method of tightening and loosening locknuts using a hand tool comprising a pair of handles, attached at a pivot point with a distal end of each end handle forming a shaped jaw member for gripping a locknut, the method comprising:

grasping the pair of handles of the hand tool;

orienting the hand tool so as to make an axis that passes through the pivot point of the hand tool parallel to an axis of rotation of the locknut to tighten or loosen the locknut;

maneuvering the hand tool so as to place the jaw members around the locknut in order to make the jaw members grip around the circumference of the locknut and engaging any protrusions extending from the periphery of the locknut;

gripping the pair of handles of the hand tool to firmly hold the locknut in the jaw members;

rotating the locknut about its axis while maintaining the gripping on the pair of handles of the hand tool; and

repeating the rotating of the locknut in small increments, as necessary due to the crowded confines.

9. A method of tightening and loosening locknuts used to secure a electrical conduit fitting using a hand tool comprising a pair of handles, attached at a pivot point with a distal end of each end handle forming a shaped jaw member for gripping a locknut, the method comprising:

grasping the pair of handles of the hand tool;

orienting the hand tool so as to make an axis that passes through the pivot point of the hand tool parallel to an axis of rotation of the conduit fitting and locknut to tighten or loosen the locknut;

maneuvering the hand tool so as to place the jaw members around the locknut in order to make the jaw members grip around the circumference of the locknut and engaging any protrusions extending from the periphery of the locknut;

gripping the pair of handles of the hand tool to firmly hold the locknut in the jaw members;

rotating the locknut about its axis while maintaining the gripping on the pair of handles of the hand tool; and

repeating the rotating of the locknut in small increments, as necessary due to the normally crowded confines of typical electrical boxes.